



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Southern District of Mississippi

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 1, 2008

**GULFPORT MAN ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF FALSE CLAIMS ABOUT RECEIPT
OF MILITARY DECORATIONS AND MEDALS**

Gulfport, Miss - Frank Thayer, 59, of Gulfport, Mississippi, was arrested today on charges of false claims about receipt of military decorations and medals, U.S. Attorney Dunn Lampton announced.

In a criminal complaint filed April 1, 2008, it is alleged that Thayer did falsely represent himself, verbally and in writing, as having been awarded a Purple Heart Medal for service in the United States Armed Forces, knowing in truth and in fact that he had never been in the military and had never been awarded such military medal, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 704(b) and 704 (d) and that he did knowingly purchase a Purple Heart Medal and Bronze Star Medal with ribbon, without legal authority to do so.

The affidavit in support of the criminal complaint further alleges that in 2006 Thayer falsely represented himself, during an interview with WLOX television station on a segment honoring veterans in Mississippi, that he was veteran and had been awarded the Purple Heart Medal. It further alleges that when interviewed by federal agents, he admitted that he had never been in the military and that his story about serving in Vietnam was completely false.

Thayer appeared before United States Magistrate Judge Robert H. Walker in Gulfport today and was released on a \$25,000.00 unsecured bond.

Thayer faces penalties of up to six months imprisonment, and a \$5,000.00 fine for each separate violation.

Assistant United States Attorney Ruth Morgan is prosecuting the case for the United States. The investigating agent is Special Agent John R. Ramsey of the Office of Inspector General, United States Department of Veterans Affairs.